

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JEFFORDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TOM BURNETT, JR.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero, Tom Burnett, Jr., who was a beloved husband and father and adored son and a very able business leader. He was a person who would not and did not sit quietly as terrorists carried out their plan last year on September 11.

Along with my colleague, Senator DAYTON, and with our colleague JIM RAMSTAD on the House side, we introduced legislation to designate a U.S. Postal Service facility in Bloomington, MN, as the Thomas E. Burnett, Jr. Post Office Building.

This legislation today is passing the House, and my expectation is that by the end of the day this will also pass the Senate. I don't know that there would ever be any Senator would disagree with this.

Tom Burnett, Jr. grew up in Bloomington, MN, and he was aboard flight 93 on September 11 of last year. America owes Tom Burnett a deep debt of gratitude for his bravery on that day. It is possible that Members of the Congress, including myself, could very well owe him our own lives. We will never know for sure.

Tom is believed by investigators to have been among those passengers who kept the hijackers from crashing flight 93 into a national landmark, most likely the White House or the Capitol. That, of course, would have likely resulted in many more deaths than already occurred on that day, and instead, as we all know, flight 93 crashed into a Pennsylvania field. After listening to a tape from the flight's black box, law enforcement officials have described a desperate struggle aboard the plane.

As FBI Director Mueller said after being briefed on the contents of the tape:

We believe that those passengers were absolute heroes, and their actions during this flight were heroic.

Tom Burnett, Jr. was 38 years old when he died. A 1986 graduate of Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota and a member of the Alpha Cappa Psi Fraternity, he had shown selfless leadership before. When he was quarterback of Thomas Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Tom's inspired play led his team to a conference championship game in 1990. He was a successful business leader as chief operating officer for a medical device manufacturer in California.

We will never forget his ultimate sacrifice and the ultimate sacrifice of

many other heroes as well on September 11. Our thoughts and prayers today are with Tom's family: His wife Deena, and their daughters, Madison, Halley, and Anna-Clair, three little daughters; his parents, Thomas, Sr. and Beverly—I had a chance to talk to Bev just the other day—and his sisters, Martha O'Brien and Mary Margaret Burnett.

Bloomington will be very proud to have this post office named for Tom Burnett, Jr. We are all very proud of this son of Minnesota.

Again, I thank Congressman RAMSTAD for his leadership in the House. I know this bill is going to pass the House today, and my expectation is that it will pass the Senate as well.

I thank again Senator LIEBERMAN for his help in expediting this and making this happen. I know for a fact this is really very important to Tom's family and to all of Minnesota.

CONFIRMATION OF TERRENCE F. McVERRY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to express my strong approval of the Senate's confirmation of Mr. Terrence F. McVerry who President Bush nominated for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. The American Bar Association has rated Mr. McVerry "unanimously well-qualified" to sit on the bench.

Mr. McVerry received his B.A. degree from Duquesne University in 1962 and his J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law in 1968. After finishing law school, Mr. McVerry started his legal career in the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. He prosecuted hundreds of bench and jury trials with a concentration on major felonies and homicides. After serving in the District Attorney's Office, he and two colleagues formed their own private practice. He went on to serve as a partner in several other prestigious Pittsburgh firms.

Mr. McVerry has also served as a member of Pennsylvania House of Representatives and as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. He served his country by joining the United States Army Reserve and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge nominated him to fill a judicial vacancy on the Court of Common Pleas to Allegheny County.

Currently, he serves as a Soldier for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where he is the chief legal officer and director of a governmental law department comprised of 36 attorneys. In this capacity, he is responsible for the representation of all branches and departments of a county government that has approximately 7,000 employees and responsible for nearly 1.3 million inhabitants.

Pennsylvania is fortunate to have an extremely well-qualified nominee like Mr. McVerry. This success is due to the bipartisan nominating commission which Senator SANTORUM and I have

established. This commission reviews all federal judicial candidates and recommends individuals to Senator SANTORUM and myself. We then recommend these individuals to the President.

I thank my colleagues for their confirmation of Mr. Terrence McVerry to sit on the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3009, THE ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXPANSION ACT

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to the motion before us, on passage of the conference report on H.R. 3009, the Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act. During the Senate's consideration of this act, the bill's managers stripped H.R. 3009 of the language approved by the House and offered a substitute amendment comprising three measures reported by the Finance Committee. The first, H.R. 3009, is indeed the Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act. But the amendment added as well two other major trade-related bills. The second measure, H.R. 3005, would grant the President fast-track authority for certain proposed trade negotiations, and also, retroactively, for other negotiations already underway. And the third, S. 1209, would reauthorize the Trade Adjustment Assistance and NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance programs. H.R. 3009 thereby became a legislative vehicle for linking together three independent measures, all trade-related to be sure but each with its own focus and provisions.

Let me say first that I am troubled by this procedural maneuvering. The three measures, each with far-reaching and very different ramifications, were considered independently of one another in committee. In my view they should have been considered separately on the floor of the Senate; each should have been amended and voted up or down on its own merits. Linked together, each measure became a hostage to the other two, a procedure which in my view ill served the American people.

I am particularly concerned by the linking of trade promotion authority with trade adjustment assistance. TAA addresses specific problems which Congress has defined. In contrast, trade promotion authority is very broad, potentially reaching into areas we cannot even identify. In fact the term is a euphemism. What we have before us is the procedure known more precisely and accurately as "fast-track," a procedure that radically redefines and limits the authority granted to Congress in article II, section 8 of the Constitution "to regulate commerce with foreign nations."

It is easily forgotten that "fast-track" is a relatively new innovation